NG LIFE™

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Mizuho Kusanagi

9

TOKYOPOP

NG LIFE

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TOKYOPOP

Manga
Comedy
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NG LIFE™

[illegible] on the head forces Keidai to [illegible] of Pompeii. The dark events in the past contin[illegible] haunt him, but he may at last be able to come [illegible] with the choices Sirix made on that fateful day, and change how the tragedy unfolded beneath [illegible] column of volcanic ash. But Keidai and Sirix bot[illegible] will have to find forgiveness if he [illegible] forward and accept his feelings for [illegible]

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MILD VIOLENCE
MILD GORE
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NG LIFE

Volume 9
Mizuho Kusanagi

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NG LIFE

Vol. 9

BY Mizuho Kusanagi

TOKYOPOP

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

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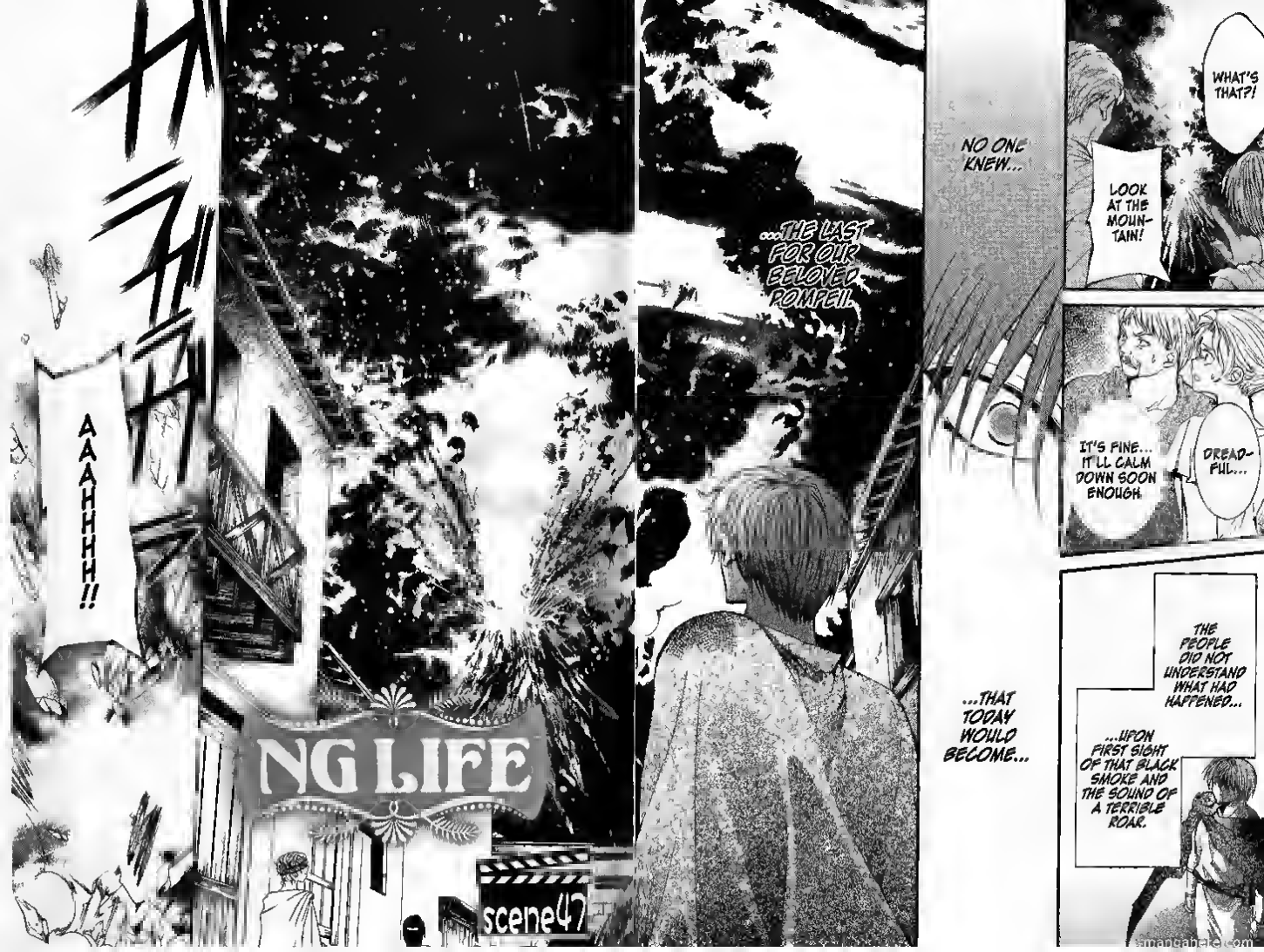
NG LIFE


AAAHHH!!
NG LIFE
scene47
...THE LAST FOR OUR BELOVED POMPEII.
NO ONE KNEW...
...THAT TODAY WOULD BECOME...
WHAT'S THAT?!
LOOK AT THE MOUN-TAIN!
IT'S FINE... IT'LL CALM DOWN SOON ENOUGH.
DREAD-FUL...
THE PEOPLE DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT HAD HAPPENED...
...UPON FIRST SIGHT OF THAT BLACK SMOKE AND THE SOUND OF A TERRIBLE ROAR.

...ARE WRATH-FUL...
THE GODS...
AN INCESSANT RAIN OF ROCKS POURED DOWN INTO THE CITY.
THE WRATH... OF THE GODS...?
OH... THANK YOU.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
THERE WASN'T EVEN A CRACK IN THE CLOUDS
THE SKY WAS SHROUDED IN DARKENSS...
LORD RAOUL.
LOLEUS.. LADY AGLAIA ...!!
THE UNEASE I'D FELT SINCE YESTER-DAY...
TO HAVE IT MANIFEST AS SOME-THING LIKE THIS...!!

THE WHOLE TOWN IS IN A PANIC--- PEOPLE ARE FRANTICALLY TRYING TO ESCAPE.
THERE'S TELL OF A STRUGGLE OVER BOATS AT THE HARBOR, FOR EXAMPLE.
...WHAT OF LIVIA?
YOUR WIFE HAS FLED WITH HER ATTENDANTS, AS INSTRUCTED.
...I SEE.
AAHHHH!
QUITE THE BIG SHOT.
IT APPEARS YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED OUR POMPEII'S DISASTROUS PLIGHT.
MY LORD RAOUL!
SIRIX!
RA... OUL...
WHERE MIGHT THE DUOVIR LORD CLAUDIUS BE?!
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I WANT TO GET NIM TO RELEASE LADY AGLAIA FROM THE DUNGEONS QUICKLY...
MY UNCLE CLAUDIUS IS OUT GATHERING INFORMATION ON THIS SITUATION.
THE LADY AGLAIA... YOU REFER TO THE INCIDENT LAST NIGHT?
YES!
THE ONE WHO KILLED LORD MARCUS WASN'T LADY AGLAI--
LOOK OUT!!
...ARE YOU ALL RIGHT...?
YES...
SIRIX, YOU'RE HURT...
I'M FINE.
BUT FIRST, LADY AGLAIA...
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NG Life ends with Volume 9!

Hello, it's me, Kusanagi. I'm thrilled to have been able to take my first (?) long-running series this far. As always, a huge thank you to all my readers, my editorial staff, and everyone who has supported me through this endeavor.

I worked very hard on the original comics included at the end of this volume as well. So please stick with NG Life through these as well. It would make me so happy if both those of you who've only read me in HanaYume and those of you who stick strictly with the book releases, both enjoy what I've drawn equally.

Volume 9 begins with a continuation of the Pompeii arc. While that particular arc is incredibly serious, it was still being advertised on HanaYume's opening pages as, "Past Life or Present Life? The **Love-Panic Comedy!** Fate spurred into motion cannot be stopped...!" (My editor's stirring blurb.) A "love-panic comedy"? On the last day of Pompeii?

...PRESENTLY ALL MEMBERS OF THE FELIX HOUSEHOLD, STARTING WITH MY LORD GAIUS, ARE IMPRISONED IN DISTRICT II.
WE PLANNED TO INVESTIGATE THE TRUE CRIMINAL SECRETLY.
NEITHER MY UNCLE NOR MYSELF BELIEVE LADY AGLAIA TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INCIDENT LAST NIGHT.
...ALBANIS GOT HIS HANDS ON THEM...
...POMPEII FACES A MUCH MORE DESPERATE CRISIS.
BUT NOW...

THEN I'LL...
...AT LEAST FROM THE PRISONS ...
NONE OF THE DUOVIRI OR AEDILES CAN TAKE ACTION RIGHT NOW.
GO BACK AND YOU MAY FIND IT TOO LATE TO ESCAPE.
...THAT CAN'T BE... LADY AGLAIA AND THE OTHERS ARE STILL IMPRISONED ...
WHAT ABOUT SERENA?
POMPEII...
...WILL BE DESTROYED.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT IS HAPPENING, SIRIX?
LOOK AROUND YOU AT THIS CITY!
CHOOSE, SIRIX.
YOU CAN ONLY PROTECT ONE THING.
WHAT ABOUT HER? SURELY SHE'S WAITING AT HOME FOR YOUR RETURN.
AM I WRONG?

I PROMISED I'D COME BACK SOON.
EVEN A STRONG PERSON LIKE HER SEEMED TO BE ON THE BRINK OF FALLING INTO DESPAIR.
...IF I DESERTED THEM NOW...
...I COULD NEVER...
...FORGIVE MYSELF.
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I WILL GO TO DISTRICT II WHERE MY LORD GAIUS AND THE OTHERS ARE IMPRISONED
KEYS TO THE DISTRICT I DUNGEONS AND SHACKLES.
TAKE THAT WITH YOU.
WHA!
SIRIX LUCRETIUS FRONTO.
YOU WERE A RATHER INTER-ESTING MAN.
WE'LL MEET AGAIN.
THE HOUSE OF FELIX HAS HELPED ME OUT WITH THIS AND THAT OVER THE YEARS.
I WON'T MIND HAVING YOU IN MY DEBT IN THE END, EITHER.
My regards to the beautiful lady Aglaia
YES, AGAIN...!
YES...!
WITHOUT FAIL...!

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ドン

WHA...!
DON'T MOVE.
MOVE AND I SLIT THIS WOMAN'S THROAT.
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE ONE OF THE HOUSE OF ORITIUS?
WHAT THE HELL ARE THEY THINKING AT A TIME LIKE THIS?!
A TIME LIKE THIS IS EXACTLY RIGHT.
POMPEII WON'T DIE.
NOW, HAND OVER THOSE KEYS IN YOUR HAND.

!!
YOU BITCH...
SERENA?

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ALTHOUGH I SWORE I WOULDN'T LEAVE SERENA ALONE...
I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE HER.
I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE HER.
ESPECIALLY AT A TIME LIKE THIS.
...WHERE'S ARIA?
SHE JUST LEFT, SAYING SHE WAS GOING TO FIND LORD RAOUL....
Did we just miss each other?
RAOUL?
YOU GO WITH THE OTHERS AND ESCAPE TO THE HARBOR.
I STILL....
...HAVE TO GO.
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I WILL WAIT FOR YOU HERE.
I MIGHT NOT BE COMING BACK!
ALL THE MORE REASON.
FOR I CANNOT LIVE EVEN ONE SECOND ...
...IN A WORLD WITHOUT YOU.
IF YOU TRULY WISH FOR ME TO LIVE...
...THEN PLEASE COME BACK SAFELY TO ME.
TO LIVE MY LIFE WITH YOU, LORD SIRIX...
...IS THE REASON I WAS BORN.
mangahere.com

IF I HAD BEEN BORN A MAN...
I COULD HAVE RUN ALONGSIDE YOU.
THAT WOULD BE A BIT OF A PROBLEM.
FOR ME, AT LEAST.
I'LL COME BACK.
I SWEAR IT.
I SHALL WAIT...
...FOR YOU FOREVER.
mangahere.com

FOREVER.

LOLEUS!!
...RI... NGGH ...!
SI...
LOLEUS...
LOLEUS?
IT'S OKAY.
I'M NOT DEAD YET.
SO DON'T CRY, LADY AGLAIA ...
Phew.
SAVE LOLEUS ...
LOLEUS...
SIRIX...
manga4ever.com

I WA
NAIV
I STILL BELIEVED SOMEWHERE IN MY HEART THAT DELOS WOULDN'T KILL LOLEUS...
DELOS DIDN'T DO THIS...
DELOS DIDN'T MAKE A MOVE, SO THAT MAN ALBANUS STABBED ME.
SO DON'T THINK OF NIM...
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF DELOS DIDN'T DO IT!
HE STILL DESERTED LOLEUS ...
I WON'T FORGIVE THAT MAN.
AT ANY RATE, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
LADY AGLAIA...
!!
ドオーン
ゴゴゴゴ

mangahere.com

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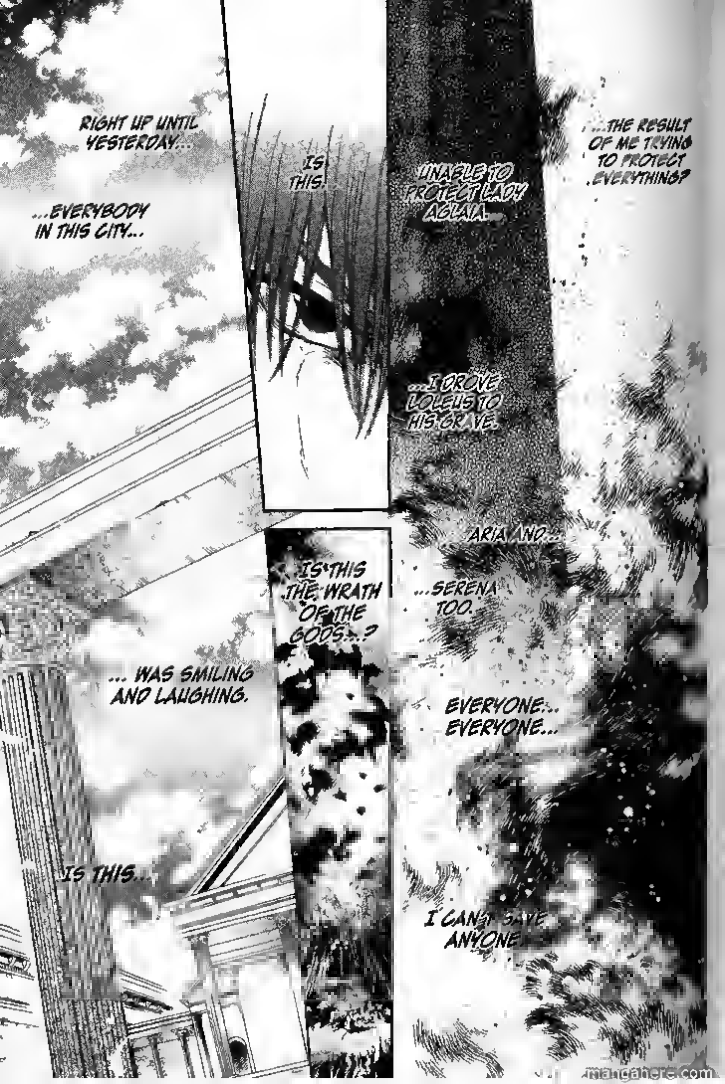
SI... RIX...
DON'T TALK. YOU'LL REOPEN THAT WOUND.
I'M FINE... SO HURRY AND GO TO SERENA ...
NO. WE'RE GOING HOME TOGETHER.
I CAN'T... MOVE ANY MORE...
THEN WE'RE GOING EVEN WITH YOU ON MY BACK!
SIRIX...
I BEG YOU.
I WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY...

mangaherc.com


RIGHT UP UNTIL YESTERDAY...
...EVERYBODY IN THIS CITY...
... WAS SMILING AND LAUGHING.
IS THIS...
IS THIS...
UNABLE TO PROTECT LADY AGLAIA...
...I DROVE LOLEIS TO HIS GRAVE.
...THE RESULT OF ME TRYING TO PROTECT EVERYTHING?
ARIA AND...
...SERENA TOO.
IS THIS THE WRATH OF THE GODS...?
EVERYONE... EVERYONE...
I CAN'T SAVE ANYONE
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I WON'T ERASE THEM. WE'LL GO TOGETHER.
MY FRIENDS INSIDE ME.
I WILL NOT FORGET...
EVEN IF I ROT AWAY...
THEIR FEELINGS.
SERENA...
...I WILL NEVER, EVER FORGET THEM.
NOT YET...
I CAN'T DIE YET.
IS THIS TO BE OUR FINAL FAREWELL?
IF I DIE, THEY'LL VANISH COMPLETELY.
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Sketch
NG LIFE
scene48

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THE LAST DAY...
SO... I WAS DREAM-ING.
OF THAT DAY...
"MY LITTLE SISTER!! YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN HER, HAVE YOU?! SIRIX!!"
DON'T WORRY...
I COULD...
...NEVER, EVER FORGET HER.
MORNING.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THAT.
THA...
I WILL GO TO DISTRICT II WHERE MY LORD GAIUS AND THE OTHERS ARE IMPRISONED.
.....
I could've been a little more honest if he weren't my dad
AND, COME TO THINK OF IT, I DIDN'T PROPERLY THANK HIM.
? ? ?
WHAT.
FOUND-ING...?
...FOUNDING FESTIVAL COMING UP?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR THE SEIBU ACADEMY...
KEIDAI.
IT'S FINE, I'LL WAIT.
I'LL BE LATE GETTING IT READY, SO GO HOME WITHOUT ME TODAY.
...WHAT?
OH, COME TO THINK OF IT, WE'VE BEEN MAKING A HUGE PORTABLE SHRINE...
IT'S A FESTIVAL ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUND-ING OF OUR SCHOOL!
FOUND-ING FESTIVAL!

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I...I DON'T KNOW IF SERIZAWA WILL GO FOR THAT...
WHY?
LET'S GO HOME WITH SERIZAWA-SAN TODAY--ALL THREE OF US.
Whoa?
HEY, KEIOAI...
MY PRECIOUS MEMORIES, IN EXCHANGE FOR MY FEELINGS FOR SERIZAWA, WILL VANISH.
NOPE. IT'S THREE OR NOTHING.
YEAH?
HOW ABOUT WE GO HOME, JUST THE TWO OF US TODAY?
"SERIZAWA."
"LISTEN TO ME."
WHEN I STARTED TO WANT TO CHERISH SERIZAWA NOT AS "LOLEUS," MY FRIEND FROM THE PAST, BUT AS "SERIZAWA," A WOMAN...
THE MEMORIES OF MY PAST LIFE WAVERED.
"I..."
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About Pompeii (past life)

The duovir Claudius, who only shows up in name in scene 47, is one and the same with Raoul's uncle who was an aedile in Volume 7's side story, "A Fragment of A Wish." As duoviri and aediles each serve one-year terms, Pompeii's last day was after Raoul's aedile term (At that time Raoul was serving as a city council member. Uncle Claudius was promoted from aedile to duovir. It's impossible to be a duovir without serving as an aedile.) Raoul's bloodline was a well-renowned clan descended from generations of politicians. Money was a necessity for politics back then, so you could say he was a bit of a celebrity (laughs). The House of Felix was, in any case, extremely well respected.

UPON REALIZING THAT...
...KNOWING THAT WE COULD NEVER GO BACK TO MERE FRIENDSHIP...
...I TRIED TO SEAL AWAY...
...MY FEELINGS FOR HER.
I GUESS THAT WAS JUST A DREAM AFTER ALL.
I DON'T THINK SERIZAWA...
...WILL EVER FORGIVE ME FOR THAT.

mangachan.com

KEI-CHAN!
MORNING!
HUH?
べしゃ…っ
KEI-CHAN?
KEI-SAN!
HEEEEY.
SERIZAWA
……
YES?

mangaHere.com

mangahere.com

mangahere.com

THEY DO HAVE KIYO-CHAN, YOU KNOW.
It's almost 1:00
GROUP 3'S PORTABLE SHRINE IS AMAZING!
WOOOW.
SO I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED ...
ALTHOUGH HE'S PALE AND DIZZY, SO IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING, HE'S PUTTING ON A HAPPY FACE.
HMM, HE'S WORKING AWAY SOMEWHAT WHOLE-HEARTEDLY.
Urrgghhhhh!
Saeki-kun, do your best for my part too! ♥
COME TO THINK OF IT, HOW'S KEIDAI?
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mangadere.com

...
SERENA ...
SERENA'S ...
Cough cough hack
ARE YOU OKAY?
UGH!
JUST A SECOND AGO, YOU WERE RESTING FROM YOUR MANUAL LABOR.
SCHOOL ...?
THIS IS SCHOOL.
IT REALLY HURTS.
MY INJURED SHOULDER...
OKAY!
REINA!
WHEN I STRUGGLE TO HANG ON TO MY PAST LIFE, I DO IT SO MUCH THAT...
...IT GETS SO I DON'T KNOW WHICH PART IS A DREAM...
...AND WHICH PART IS REALITY

mangahere.com

DOUBLE LARIAT!
GUH!
AREN'T YOU SENDING HIM TO HIS NEXT LIFE?
THERE YOU ARE, KEIDAI. BACK TO NORMAL.
OH... IT'S THAT GUY FROM THE RIVER SITE... LONG TIME NO SEE
STUPIDITY REALLY DOES SUIT YOU, KEIDAI.
IT'S A DEMON WEARING SERENA'S FACE..
FOR A CHANGE OF PACE ...
...WANNA GO ON A DATE WITH ME?
KEIDAI.
mangaforce.com

mangahere.com

How kind of you
ALL RIGHT, SINCE THIS IS A DATE, IT'S MY TREAT.
YAY! THEN WE SHOULD HAVE TONS OF DATES!
...
HEY.
...DID YOU MEAN A WALK AROUND CAMPUS?
IT'S CROWDED OVER THERE.
SOMETIMES... I FEEL LIKE...
...I'VE KNOWN YOU FOREVER.
SO YOU REALLY...
...STILL SEE ME AS SERENA?
LORD SIRIX.
mangaden.com

Hiruta don't fall asleep
WHA? YOU TALKED WITH YUUMA-KUN ABOUT ALL THE PAST LIFE STUFF?
IT'S NOT LIKE I DECIDED TO BLAB ABOUT IT.
IT LOOKS LIKE HE REALIZED THAT THE SERENA WHO KEIDAI MENTIONS IS HIS PAST SELF.
AND THAT KEIDAI WAS WORRIED OVER WHAT HAPPENED BACK THEN...
I KNOW..
...THAT IN MY PAST LIFE I WAS A PERSON NAMED "SERENA."
SO I TOLD HIM THAT POMPEII PLAY WAS BASED ON KEIDAI'S PAST LIFE, AND ABOUT SIRIX AND LOLEUS TOO.
SINCE THE PAST-LIFE CHATS DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH ME, I FIGURED THAT YUUMA DIDN'T HAVE TO KNOW EITHER..
...BUT SINCE I'M THE ONLY ONE HE CAN REALLY TALK TO...
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...THAT HE WANTS KEIDAI TO BE FREE.
PLUS HE KEPT SAYING...
...YUUMA ...
YOU...
JUST NOW...

WELL?
DO YOU SEE ME AS SERENA?
YO, LORD SIRIX.
"YO, LORD SIRIX"... YOU SAY.
How ill mannered
YOU...
...I ...
...KNOW JUST A LITTLE BIT...
...ABOUT THE KIND OF GUY YOU WERE IN YOUR PAST LIFE.
"SERENA" IS MY PAST LIFE...
...AND SIRIX IS YOURS.
AND SERIZAWA-SAN IS LOLEUS.
THAT PLAY IS OUR STORY.

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MOST OF ALL...
...I DIDN'T WANT TO TALK TO SERENA ABOUT POMPEII'S LAST DAY.
BECAUSE I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D BELIEVE ME.
TO BE HONEST, I THOUGHT, "WHY COULDN'T HE JUST TELL ME HIMSELF?"
YUUMA...
BECAUSE YOU LEFT ME?
DID YOU THINK I'D DIE FROM SHOCK OR SOMETHING?
THE PERSON YOU CARE ABOUT...
Hm?
IS IT YUUMA?
OR SERENA?
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IT'S BOTH.
THEN WHAT ABOUT SERIZAWA-SAN?
IS IT THAT YOU CAN'T LOVE HER BECAUSE SHE'S LOLEUS?
THAT'S ...
WRONG, RIGHT?
I HEARD YOU.
"IN EXCHANGE FOR MY FEELINGS FOR SERIZAWA, MY MEMORIES WILL VANISH."
WOULDN'T IT BE EASIER...
...TO NOT HAVE ANY MEMORIES?
MAYBE...
BUT I...
I ALONE...

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...MUST REMEMBER ...
AT FIRST IT WAS SO I COULD SEE ALL OF YOU AGAIN.
...THOSE I COULDN'T SAVE.
NOW, IN ORDER TO KEEP YOU ALIVE--- MY MEMORIES WILL REMAIN
I CAN'T ACT LIKE IT DIDN'T HAPPEN.
...YOU SHOULD.

WHA...
YOU SHOULD ACT THAT WAY.
STARTING NOW. IN ORDER TO LIVE...
...IN THE HERE AND NOW...
...YOU SHOULD FORGET ALL OF THAT.
CAN...
CAN I DIVIDE IT UP SO EASILY?
I LET SEREHA DIE.
TO FORGET THAT...
SEREHA IS ME, RIGHT?

mangaHere.com

THE ONE THING I DIDN'T WANT TO ADMIT...
...YES.
I'M NOT SERENA.
...NO.
...WAS THAT YUUMA STOPPED OVERLAPPING WITH SERENA A WHILE AGO.
SERENA HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.
OR SERIZAWA-SAN.
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
"BECAUSE I'M COMING TO FIND YOU."
WHAT... WAS THAT... JUST NOW...
SERENA IS BEGINNING TO VANISH.
THAT'S JUST NOT TRUE...
...THAT I'M NOT SERENA.
BUT I THOUGHT YOU'D FINALLY SAID...
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mangaraw.com

SIRIX...
...JUST...
YUUMAAAAA!!
WAS SIRIX'S FINAL WISH WRONG?
HUH...
IF I'D ORDERED YOU TO ESCAPE...
ALL RIGHT, ALL DONE!
LET'S MOVE IT.
AAH!
AH AH AH!

ARE YOU OKAY?!
IT FELL OVER!
Wooooaaa!!
OWWW...
KEIDAI...
...JUST WANTED TO PROTECT YOU.
THIS TIME FOR SURE.
KEIDAI...?

I'll be waiting to hear your opinions and thoughts!

Address:
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I get so excited whenever I receive one of your letters or illustrations. Thank you so much for them ♡ Know that I can't comply with "Please reply quickly" or "Please reply by X date." Sorry! (I only have 1-2 times a year, if that, to respond to all your mail. At least for now!)

I HEARD HE HAD AN ACCIDENT AT SCHOOL...
...HOW'S KEIDAI?
NG LIFE
scene49

...KEI-CHAN...
...STILL HASN'T WOKEN UP.
WELL... HE DIDN'T LOSE MUCH BLOOD, SO IT SHOULDN'T BE TOO SERIOUS, BUT...
EVEN AFTER TWO DAYS...
...WITH CAUSE UNKNOWN?
HE'S IN A COMA...
YES--- EVEN THE DOCTORS ARE STUMPED.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? IT'S NOT SERIOUS, RIGHT?
...PROTECTING ME.
KEIDAI GOT HURT...
IT'S MY FAULT.

OKAY?
YEAH.
HE'S FINE, YUUMA!
I SEE...
KEI-CHAN'S JUST SLEEPING IT OFF.
SO HE PROTECTED YUUMA?
中央病院

Well, I've often received letters from readers about the lapses in Serena and Sirix's meeting.

I planned to explain it properly during Volume 7, but I wonder if it was hard to understand--
I'm sorry.

Well, Serena met Sirix once when he was unconscious after fighting Loly, but then Sirix was sent to the aedile's house for a while to recuperate. As Serena, being Serena, couldn't hang around the house of the lord aedile, so she went back to her house to work. And then Sirix [illegible] Serena, and fell in love at first sight. Loly saw this and arranged a chance for Sirix to talk to Serena.

In "A Fragment of A Wish," Loly says, "I'll introduce you **someday**," and since that moment, you could say that he was already thinking about how he could play tricks on Sirix. (laughs)

HE'S JUST... SO WEIRD.
BUT INSTEAD, IT'S LIKE HE'S NOT EVEN THERE.
IT'S LIKE HE'S GONE FAR AWAY.
HE SHOULD BE ALIVE ...
HE SHOULD JUST BE SLEEPING...
I... ... MIGHT HAVE ...
STARTING NOW, JUST FORGET...
...HURT HIM.
EVEN IF YOU FORGET...
...SERENA WILL NOT BE SAD.
BECAUSE I IGNORED THE IMPORTANT THINGS DEEP IN HIS HEART...
...AND TRIED TO TEAR THEM AWAY FROM HIM.

WHAT'LL ...
...I DO...
...IF HE DOESN'T OPEN HIS EYES?
IDIOT. YOU'RE OVER-THINK-ING IT.
CALM DOWN.
HE WAS HURT AND IS JUST SLEEPING A LITTLE.
HE'LL BE FINE ...
...SO YOU GO HOME ALREADY.

NO, I PROMISED LORD SIRIX ...
...THAT I'D WAIT HERE.
PLEASE ESCAPE ON YOUR OWN, ELDER SISTER.
SERENA.
SERENA, YOU HAVE TO HURRY AND ESCAPE.
DON'T BE STUPID!
WHEN DID HE SAY HE WAS COMING HOME?
IF YOU DON'T HURRY, THIS CITY WILL...
EVEN SO.
EVEN SO, I WILL...
...WAIT FOR HIM HERE.

I'LL BRING HIM BACK IF I HAVE TO DRAG HIM BY HIS HAIR.
WHA? ELDER SISTER ...!
THEN I'M GOING TO GO LOOK FOR SIRIX.
YOU CAN'T DO THAT...
.....
ELDER SISTER!
IF YOU WANT TO ESCAPE, DON'T MIND ME--JUST GO NOW.
HOW DARE YOU DESERT SERENA?!
I WON'T FORGIVE YOU.
I WON'T FORGIVE YOU.
WHERE ARE YOU, SIRIX?

DO I TRULY... ...WISH HIM DEAD?
DO I STILL FEEL THAT WAY NOW...?
SMYRNA...
ARE YOU STILL THINKING THAT?

...I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THAT TIME, LONG BEFORE I WAS BORN.
...ALWAYS, FROM THE MOMENT I WAS BORN...
...I'VE ALWAYS...
THOSE HAPPY MEMORIES AND...
...MEMORIES OF THAT DAY.
SO THAT I WON'T FORGET...
SO THAT I WON'T FORGET...
...REPEATING.

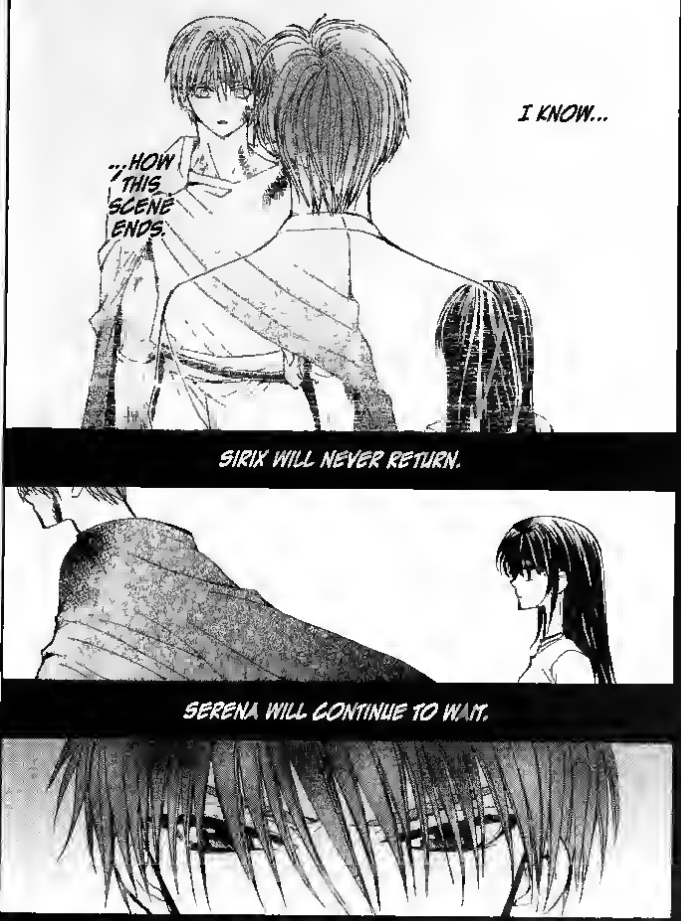
THE OTHER ME...
...IS SHOUTING.
SWEETLY, MADDENINGLY...
HOW...
HOW COULD I HAVE PROTECTED THEM?
...CAN EVERYONE ...
...BE HAPPY!...

I COULDN'T PROTECT A SINGLE PERSON.
THIS PLACE IS...
"IT'S POMPEII. IT'S THAT DAY."
THAT DAY'S...
SIRIX!
WHERE ARE YOU?!
WHERE?
SIRIX.

SIRI ...
...AAAAAAHH!!
BUT YOU... PROMISED.
THAT YOU'D PROTECT SERENA...
.....

FATHER.
I FINALLY KNOW WHAT I MUST DO.
THE HOUSE OF SIRIUS MUST BE DESTROYED ALONG WITH POMPEII.
YOU BETRAYED US, DELOS.
...SIRIX...
SAVE HER...
.....
SAVE SERENA...
WHY DON'T YOU COME HOME?
LEAVING THAT GIRL...
...ALONE...
LIAR.
LIAR.
I'LL KILL YOU.

MANY TIMES...
I CANNOT LIVE EVEN ONE SECOND...
...IN A WORLD WITHOUT YOU.
...OVER AND OVER SINCE I WAS BORN...
...THEN PLEASE COME BACK SAFELY TO ME.
IF YOU TRULY WISH FOR ME TO LIVE...
...I'VE HAD THIS DREAM.
LORD SIRIX.
IN THE END, VELOS DESTROYED THE HOUSE OF BRUTUS AND THE LOO, SUNK ALONG WITH POMPEII...
IS THIS A DREAM?
NO.
THIS IS JUST LIKE...
...A MEMORY BELONGING TO POMPEII ITSELF...
IF THIS PLACE IS TRULY POMPEII ON THAT DAY...



HISTORY CANNOT BE CHANGED.

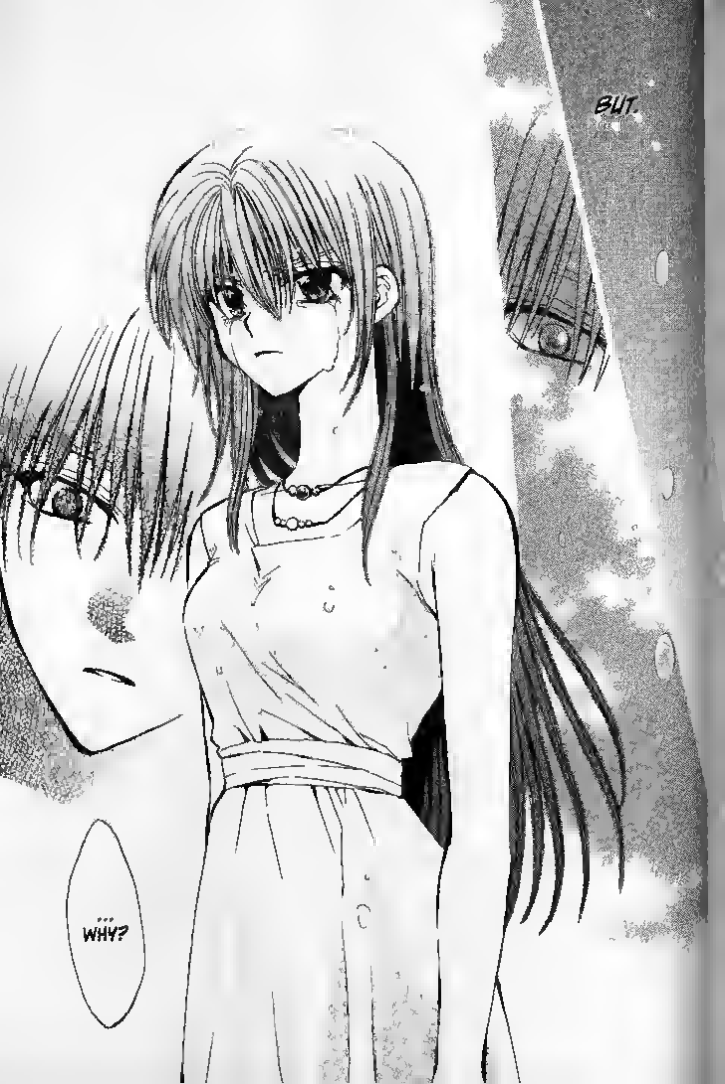
I KNOW.

...SERENA WILL CONTINUE TO WAIT, WON'T SHE?

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES IT REPEATS...

...SIRIX WILL RUN OFF, WON'T HE?

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES IT REPEATS...


BUT...
...WHY?

WHY CAN'T THESE LEGS...
WHY CAN'T THESE HANDS WIELD A SWORD?
...RUN THE WAY HIS DO?
I MUST ...
...HAVE STRENGTH.
I'M NOT EVEN...
...ABLE TO DIE ALONG-SIDE HIM!

AH
...OP...

I'll be waiting to hear your opinions and thoughts!

Address:
Mizuho Kusanagi
c/o TOKYOPOP Inc
5900 Wilshire Blvd
Suite 2000
Los Angeles, CA
90036

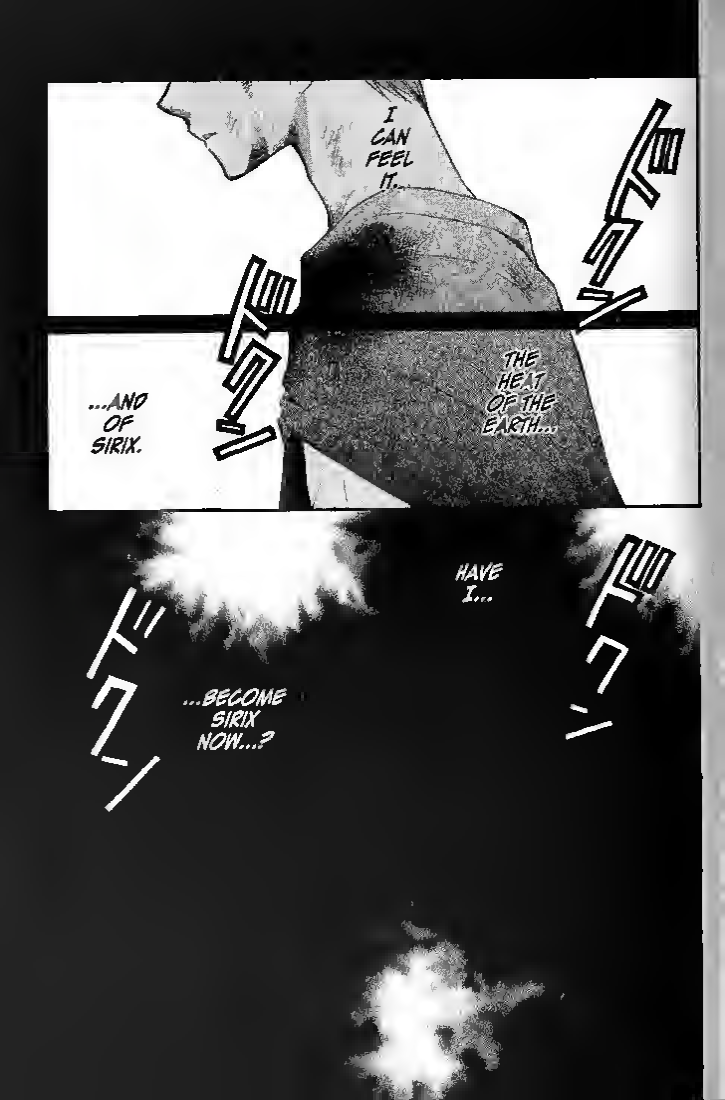
I get so excited whenever I receive one of your letters or illustrations. Thank you so much for them ♡ Know that I can't comply with "Please reply quickly" or "Please reply by X date." Sorry! (I only have 1-2 times a year, if that, to respond to all your mail. At least for now!)

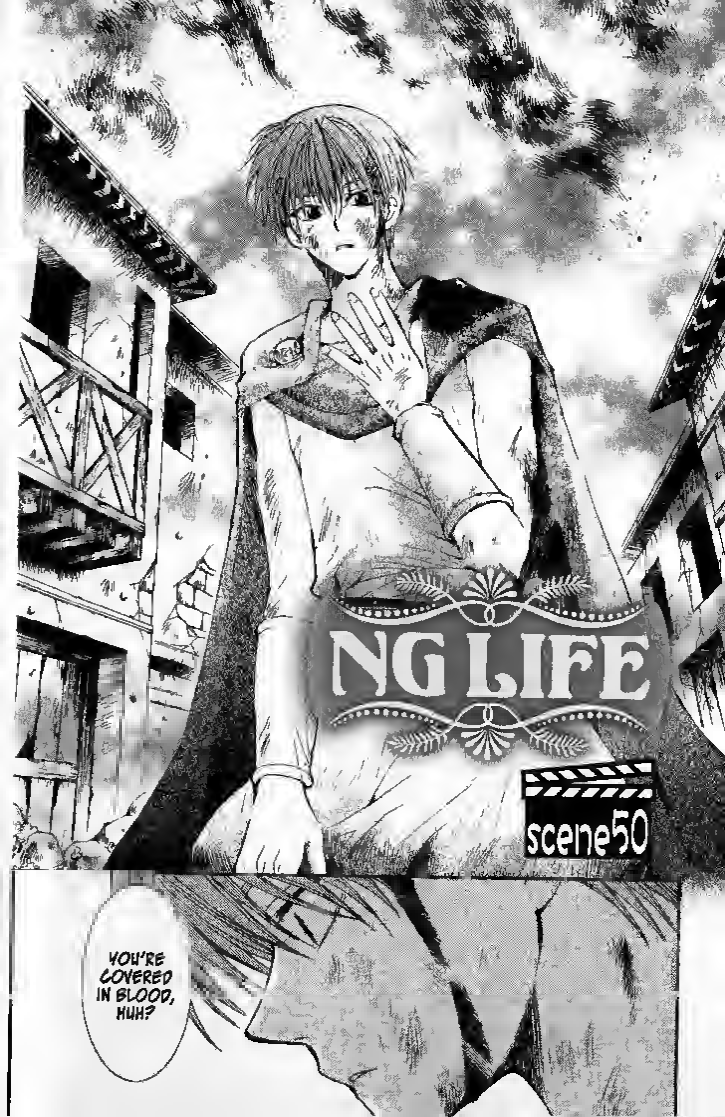
SIRIX!!
BOTH YOU AND I WILL STARE AT THIS NIGHT-MARE FOR ETERNITY!
BECAUSE IF YOU CAN'T FORGET THE PAIN ...
I HAVE A WORLD OF MY OWN NOW!
...THEN I CAN'T MOVE FORWARD EITHER!!
... FRIENDS, AND SOME-ONE I WANT TO CHERISH.
I HAVE ...
YOUR VOICE IS ALWAYS RESOUNDING INSIDE ME...
...

RESOUNDING SO MUCH THAT I HATE IT.
IF THAT'S SO...
...THEN SHOULDN'T MY VOICE REACH YOU TOO?
ANSWER ME...
IF YOU WANT TO PROTECT SERENA,
ANSWER ME!!
SIRIX!!!

?!
HUH?
グラ!!
MY FIELD OF VISION IS...
HE TURNED AROUND ...

HUH?
WHY...
...CAN I FEEL THE GROUND?
I GOT DIZZY ALL OF A SUDDEN
.....?!
...BECOME SIRIX...?
I'VE...


I CAN FEEL IT...
THE HEAT OF THE EARTH...
...AND OF SIRIX.
ドクン
ドクン
ドクン
ドクン
HAVE I...
...BECOME SIRIX NOW...?


NG LIFE
scene50
YOU'RE COVERED IN BLOOD, HUH?

I'VE SEEN THIS GIRL SOMEWHERE.
NO, I...
CAN YOU MOVE ...?
I'LL TAKE YOU TO WHERE SERENA IS.
BECAUSE I KNOW THE WAY EVEN IN THE DARK.
I'M A FRIEND OF SERENA'S.
HUH?
...GO BACK?!
TO WHERE SERENA IS...
IF I GO BACK NOW...
...COULD I HELP HER OUT OF HERE...?!
OF COURSE.
WHY...
...DID I BECOME SIKIX?

ドクン
WASN'T IT FOR THIS PURPOSE?
THIS TIME, FINALLY...
NOW I CAN HELP SERENA TO SURVIVE.
ドクン
ISN'T THAT WHY I'M HERE?
チャリ…ン
EVEN IF I LOSE MY LIFE, IT'S NOT SO PRECIOUS TO ME. I DON'T NEED TO BOTHER ESCAPING.
THIS CITY IS ALREADY DONE FOR.
BUT SERENA...

This was the 50th episode of NG Life!

After NG's run finished, I went on my very first overseas vacation. Naturally, people asked, 'Will you be going to Pompeii?"

Ummm... but where I actually went was Hawaii (laughs) In the end, I never did visit Pompeii, not even once.

It's just impossible to go on extended vacations during a run. On-the-ball comic artists seem to be able to go wherever they please when they see even the slightest break in their work schedules. But Pompeii means going to Italy... and that's very far away. Maybe if Pompeii existed kinda around Korea, I would have gone to visit. (laughs) But since a lot of you out there who went to visit Pompeii have been kind enough to send me pictures, and because every so often there are all these shows and specials on Rome or Pompeii on TV, I feel like I've already been there! (laughs)

I'M GOING TO RE-WRITE SIRIX'S VERSION OF HISTORY.
...SO AT LEAST THIS TIME, EVEN IF IT'S JUST FOR SERENA --
I CAN'T SAVE ANYONE IF I DON'T TRY...
...FROM THE PATH SIRIX CHOSE.
I, KEIDAI SAEKI, SHOULD NOT STRAY...
BUT ...
I CANNOT BETRAY...
...RAOUL, WHO GAVE ME THIS KEY...
...AND THE FEELINGS OF LOLEUS AND LADY AGLAIA WAITING FOR ME.
...SERENA WHO PROTECTED ME...

SIRIX...?
...YOU'RE... A FRIEND OF SERENA'S, RIGHT...?
...YES.
YOU'LL THINK IT'S IRRESPONSIBLE OF ME TO JUST SAY THIS IN PASSING.
YOU'LL THINK IT VERY, VERY IRRESPONSIBLE.
BUT IF YOU...
...DON'T FEEL LIKE MOVING FROM THIS CITY...
...WILL YOU STAY BY SERENA'S SIDE?

...WAITING FOR A ME WHO CAN NO LONGER RETURN.
...UNABLE TO MOVE FROM A DARK ROOM...
PLEASE, DON'T LET HER DIE ALL ALONE...
I BEG YOU...
... JEALOUS OF SERENA AFTER ALL...
...I REALLY AM...

BEAUTIFUL, KIND, AND ABLE TO MARRY SOMEONE LIKE YOU.
I COWER, HIDING MY FACE.
I THOUGHT MY WORLD WOULD CHANGE IF I WERE BEAUTIFUL LIKE SERENA.
...BUT.
I AM TINA.
TINA...
COME TO THINK OF IT, I DID ONCE BEFORE...
MAYBE EVEN SOME-ONE LIKE MYSELF ...
I SHOULD BE BY SERENA'S SIDE, RIGHT?
...CAN BE USEFUL TO THE RIGHT PERSON.
YOU ...!
TINA, IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND...
...AND DECIDE TO ESCAPE ...
SAVE YOUR BREATH.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE...
...I HAVE BEEN GRANTED A MISSION.
...I SEE.

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AND YET...
...WON'T I BE ABLE TO BOAST THAT...
...I ACTED AS MYSELF?
RIGHT...?
I'M SURE...
...I'LL RETURN TO THE STARTING POINT.
AND I'LL REGRET NOT BEING ABLE TO PROTECT SERENA.
...START RUNNING STRAIGHT AHEAD AGAIN.
AND...
...YOU'LL...

SIRIX...

HERE.
OVER HERE.
SERENA, HURRY!

SEE, IT'S JUST LIKE I TOLD YOU.
I THOUGHT HE WAS DEFINITELY HEADED THIS WAY.
WHAT...
WHAT IS THIS...
ALL THANKS TO YOU SAYING "LET'S GO," AND DRAGGING ME OUT, TINA.
I'M GLAD YOU CAME WITH ME, TINA.
SERENA WASN'T DESERTED.
HO HO!
IT WAS A MISSION GRANTED BY SIRIX, AFTER ALL.
ALWAYS...

LOLEUS ...!
LORD SIRIX...

"DON'T LEAVE SERENA ALONE."
ALWAYS ...
...BY SIRIX'S SIDE...
I'M GLAD.
SERENA LOOKS HAPPY.

I'M GLAD...
..YOU.
THANK YOU, KEIDAI.

SERENA WAS SMILING, HUH...?
...IS EVERYTHING OKAY NOW?
...MM-HMM.
YES.
I, TOO, AM ABOUT TO SLEEP AT LAST.
I DON'T THINK... YOU'LL HAVE ANY MORE NIGHTMARES.
...SO WILL THEY..
I'M SORRY...
UNTIL NOW, MY STRONG FEELINGS BOUND YOU.

IT WASN'T ALL PAINFUL RECOL-LECTIONS.
I GOT A LOT...
...OF HAPPY ONES TOO.
...VANISH AFTER ALL, THEN?
MY MEMORIES.
...THOSE IMPORTANT PEOPLE.
I COULD FIND...
...FEEL A LITTLE LONELY.
... MAKES ME...
TO SAY GOODBYE ...

THEY WON'T "VANISH."
EVERYONE'S SOUL REMEMBERS ALL THE REINCARNATIONS THAT HAVE COME AND GONE.
THEY JUST DON'T REALIZE IT BECAUSE IT SIMPLY ISN'T NECESSARY.
SO WHEN YOU THINK...
...THAT YOU TRULY DON'T NEED THEM...
...THEY'LL SLEEP SOFTLY WITHIN YOUR HEART.
YOU HAVE SOMEONE IMPORTANT TO YOU, DON'T YOU?
...YEAH.
SOMEONE YOU LOVE?
LOVE?!
...YEAH...

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...WHA!
NO WAY...!
KEIDAI!
HE'S AWAKE...
...WHERE ...?
UWAAAHHH!
KEIDAI'S AWAKE!!
UGH, YOU DUMMY!
WAY TO OVERSLEEP, DUMMY!!
AAAAHH, WHAT A RELIEF!

I HAVE TO CALL HIS MOM!
I HAVE TO TELL MY SISTER AND THE OTHERS!
Eeeeeee!!
Kaidan's awake!!

SERIZAWA ...?
ARE YOU CRYING, SERIZAWA?
ANYONE WOULD CRY IF SOMEONE HADN'T WOKEN UP IN THREE DAYS!!
YOU BIG JERKFACE!
PHEW ...
DON'T YOU "PHEW!" ME!!
This idiot!
BESIDES, ARE YOU OKAY AFTER WAKING UP?
THREE DAYS, HUH...?
SERI-ZAWA.
I'VE... BEEN DREAMING ABOUT MY PAST LIFE ALL THIS TIME.
IN PAIN OVER NOW I COULDN'T PROTECT ANYONE.
I THOUGHT I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO BREAK FREE.
WANTING TO SAVE SERENA...
...I FINALLY FACED SIRIX AND SHOUTED.

...CAME BACK HERE.
AND I...
IT WAS LIKE USING MY VOICE FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME.
YOU HAVE SOMEONE IMPORTANT TO YOU, DON'T YOU?
AT THE END, SEREHA WAS SMILING.
SERIZAWA
SIRIX TOO.
...
HAPPY.
REALLY, REALLY...
I'M HAPPY.
NOW I HAVE...
HE SAID, "THANK YOU."
...FINALLY BECOME KEIDAI SAEKI.

IT'S OKAY!..
...FOR ME TO FALL FOR YOU.
I'M HOME.
SERIZAWA..

NG LIFE
scene51

Shinogu 9 years old
Yuuma 3 years old

IT'S LIKE PHOTOGRAPHS LOCKED IN AN ALBUM...

IT'S BEEN TWO DAYS SINCE I LEFT THE HOSPITAL.
KEIDAI!
YUUMA-KUN'S HERE!
OKAAAY!
TODAY IS MY FIRST SCHOOL DAY IN A WHILE.
MORN-ING.
YOU'RE EARLY, YUUMA.
THERE'S LOTS OF PREP WORK TO DO AT SCHOOL.
YOU'RE GOING TO SCHOOL ON A SUNDAY?
TODAY IS THE SEIBU ACADEMY FOUNDING FESTIVAL.

SHUUGO-SAN, WHY DON'T WE GO LATER? I HEARD THE PORTABLE SHRINES ARE MAGNIFICENT.
SERIZAWA-SAN ISN'T HERE.
SERIZAWA-SAN HASN'T COME TO SEE YOU SINCE YOU WOKE UP, HUH?
YES... I SUPPOSE.
THAT'S RIGHT.
IT'S OKAY FOR ME TO FALL FOR YOU.
SERIZAWA'S BEEN AVOIDING ME SINCE THEN.
AND HERE I THOUGHT I'D FINALLY FINALLY FINALLY!! TOLD HER.
Doesn't answer my texts or calls
Doesn't come to the hospital starting the next day
YUUMA, LET'S HURRY AND GO TO SCHOOL.
OH!
HURRY!
LOOK OUT FOR CARS, OKAY?
DON'T FALL OVER ALONG THE WAY!
AM I IN GRADE SCHOOL?
WELL, I WAS SO WORRIED DURING THAT TIME!
You didn't wake up for three days!
DAD.
MOM.

SAEKI!
I'M...
...
ALREADY
...
...JUST FINE.
YOU ALL HEALED, MAN? YOU RIP VAN WINKLE, YOU!
SHOW US YOUR SCAR!
YOU FINALLY MADE IT BACK TO US!
HEY, SERIZAWA! HERE'S YOUR PATIENT!
NURSES ARE OUT-DATED.
A NURSE?
WE'LL GET YOU A SPECIAL NURSE, SAEKI.
Huh?
I'M FINE!
DON'T BE GOING NEAR THE PORTABLE SHRINE TO-DAY, DUDE.
NOPE. KLUTZES WATCH FROM A DISTANCE.
"KLUTZES"
...

すすす
NO!
DID YOU DO SOMETHING?
WHY'S SHE RUNNING?!
ドドン ドドン
THIS IS QUITE THE SUCCESS.
WHEN THERE HASN'T BEEN A SECOND I HAVEN'T WANTED TO SEE HER!

REINA AND THE OTHERS SAID THEY'D BE RIDING A PORTABLE SHRINE, BUT WHICH ONE?
WHY ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY? YOUR FEELINGS FINALLY MATCH UP, RIGHT?
NO! NO WAY.
THAT WAS --
LOOK.
...
KEIDAI WAS LOOKING FOR YOU JUST NOW.
UGH ...
Healing...
HEY, MII.
Beautification Committee
Trash
IF IT WASN'T A DREAM, KEI-CHAN'S GONE DUMB FROM GETTING HIT IN THE HEAD!
IT'S NOT A DREAM.
A DREAM.
I'm sure

WHO YOU CALLIN' DUMB?
EEEK!
HA HAVE YOU GONE SENILE AFTER SLEEPING THREE DAYS?
ENOUGH ALREADY.
I GOT THE GIST, BUT WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME YOUR STORY DOWN AT THE STATION?
Come with me for a bit.
NO... WAIT A SEC...
Eeee!
KAGAMI-SENSE!!!
Sensei! Eeee!
Eeeee! It's been so long, sensei!!

SHINOBU-SAN.
AS SUPER POPULAR AS EVER, I SEE.
Ahh, girls are so cute!
Bee! see!
Bee!
DO YOU KNOW SHUNA SAKAKIBARA AND REINA SAKAKIBARA?
WE DO!
SHALL WE GO FIND THEM?
DOES THE TERM IDOL STILL APPLY AT YOUR AGE?
WELL, I AM AN IDOL HERE.
YOU LITTLE CREEP! ARE YOU MAKING THOSE GIRLS SERVE YOU?
You're not more popular than me!
Oh
I DISCOVER A FRIEND.
What's a friend?!
KEIDAI, IS YOUR HEAD OKAY?
Please ask if my injury is okay
I'M FINE NOW.
SINCE YOU WERE SLEEPING LIKE YOU'D DIED...
...I RE-MEMBERED THE PAST A LITTLE.
I'M GLAD YOU'RE SAFE.

Princess
WHAAAT?! YOU'RE LEAVING?
WELL, MY PRINCESS IS GLARING AT ME.
OH. MIKAGE ...!
UMM... I COULDN'T SAY THIS, BUT...
...NO ONE BLAMES YOU ANY-MORE.
SO YOU TOO...
NOTHING WILL CHANGE UNLESS HE GETS IT HIMSELF.
ぽん
mangahere.com

...SO YOU STILL HAVE YOUR MEMORIES, EH?
YOU LOOKED SO ODDLY REFRESHED, I THOUGHT THEY'D VANISHED.
YES. BUT...
THEY'RE LIKE PHOTOGRAPHS IN AN ALBUM.
AN ALBUM?
THEY'RE RECOLLECTIONS YOU CAN VIEW ANYTIME IF YOU OPEN IT UP...
...AND GET A NOSTALGIC, HAPPY FEELING, BUT...
...EACH TIME THEY GROW MORE DISTANT...
SOME-DAY...
...YOU WON'T EVEN NOTICE THAT THE ALBUM'S ON YOUR BOOKSHELF. LIKE THAT.

I THOUGHT YOU'D BE UPSET.
I'M NOT THAT NARROW-MINDED.
...WELL, I SUPPOSE THAT'S FINE.
IT'S YOUR LIFE AND ALL.
Is that so...?
BECAUSE WHEN YOU HADN'T WOKEN UP FOR THREE DAYS...
...YUUMA AND SERIZAWA WERE CRYING.
I LIKE TO SEE THOSE TWO...
... SMILE.
SO IT'S UP TO YOU...
...TO KEEP BEING YOUR GOOFY SELF. OR ELSE I'M IN TROUBLE.

AS MUCH AS IT PAINS ME TO SAY IT.
HOW VERY KIND OF YOU!
BY THE WAY, SHE'S GONE.
AHH!
She ran out on me again!
SERIZAWA
ALL RIGHT, LIFT IT UP.
EEE! HOLD ON! GO SLOW, GO SLOW!
DON'T FORGET WE'RE RIDING THIS THING!

Reina's belongings
YOU'RE A FINE WOMAN, REINA.
KEIGAI, NO COMMENTS FOR ME?
SHUT UP! MY CLASSMATES FORCED ME TO WEAR IT.
YUUMA! WHAT ARE YOU WEARING? SO CUTE!
SOO CUTE! ♡
HAVE YOUR WOUNDS HEALED, SAEKI-KUN?
IF YOU MEAN MII-CHAN, SHE WENT TO BUILDING III.
BY THE WAY, HAVE YOU SEEN SERIZAWA?
Na--
NATURALLY.

YEAH. KOTOMIYA, I HEARD YOU CAME TO VISIT ME IN THE HOSPITAL? THANK YOU.
SAEKI-KUN, YOU'RE A KLUTZ, SO BE CAREFUL, OKAY?
KEIDAI.
DID YOU GET INTO A FIGHT WITH SERIZAWA-SAN OR SOMETHING?
YUUMA.
I...
...REALLY LIKE SERIZAWA.

THEN YOU WERE REJECTED.
...I KNEW THAT, BUT?
I DON'T KNOW YET.
SO. WHEN I CONFESSED TO HER, SHE RAN OFF ON ME.
I'LL DO THAT.
THEN SHOULDN'T YOU CHASE AFTER HER?
KEIDAI!
DON'T MAKE HER CRY ANYMORE.

DON'T WORRY.
'CAUSE ...
...ONCE I FALL IN LOVE, I'LL GIVE IT MY EVERYTHING, AS LONG AS I LIVE.
OH.
AND.
That so?
YUUMA!
I LOVE YOU. ♡

...IT MIGHT HAVE STARTED WHEN YUUMA ARRIVED...
WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT...
WOW, SO MUCH FOR "MY EVERY-THING."
SERIZAWA?
...THAT SERIZAWA BEGAN TO CHANGE INTO SOMEONE "SPECIAL."
SO...
...AND IT WOULDN'T STOP.
ALTHOUGH I SHOULD HAVE HAD FEELINGS FOR SERENA...
NO MORE...
DRIP-
...NO MATTER WHAT, SHE WAS ON MY MIND...
...NO MATTER WHAT...

I WON'T HOLD BACK.
YOU RAN AWAY AS HARD AS YOU COULD, HUH?
WELL, YOU CHASED ME AS HARD AS YOU COULD.
HUH?
HUH?
HUH?
SO.
WELL.
SHALL WE TALK?
YOU'RE A LITTLE CLOSE.
YOU STILL DON'T BELIEVE ME?
NO.
THAT WAS FAST.
WELL... YOU DON'T REMEMBER IT, DO YOU?

I'd clearly decided since the time of the first chapter that Serizawa and Keidai would end up together. (Even though Serizawa didn't appear that much in chapters 1 and 2, that alone was clear.)

So when I'm often asked, "Who will he end up with?" I'm not sure whether it's surprising or funny. (laughs) I mean, the times he'd throb for Yuuma were over-the-top and gag-like. While it seems like there were many who were surprised by Keidai's changes, it's not that he changed, but that he took off his sheep's clothing. (laughs) This time around, it could be seen either way about his personality, but because it's funny I made it like this.

We've reached the end of NG Life, but if you have any favorite characters, scenes, lines, images, or anything, it would make me happy to hear about them ♥ Thank you!!

I REMEMBER IT ALL JUMBLED UP.
LIKE THE STUFF AT THE BEACH... FROM THE RETREAT...
...SORRY
AND HOW YOU BURST INTO TEARS AND STUFF SAYING, "I WANT TO BE WITH YOU"...
THAT YOUR FACE GOT ALL FLUSHED...
THAT I KISSED YOU WHILE WE SHELTERED FROM THE RAIN...
HEY, WAI...
WHA!
WHOOA?!
SHUT UP ALREADY!!

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I'M SORRY FOR CAUSING YOU ALL THIS CONFUSION UNTIL NOW.
...THE WILL OF ME, KEIDAI SAEKI.
...IS, MAKE NO MISTAKE ...
...SOMETHING THAT WAS TOTALLY OBVIOUS.
NOT ME, KEIDAI SAEKI.
SIRIX IS THE ONE WHO LOVES SERENA.
I'VE FINALLY REALIZED...
NOW ...
...THE THOUGHT THAT I WANT TO BE WITH SERIZAWA...
BUT WHAT ABOUT SERENA?

...NO MATTER WHAT...
BUT NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I HIT THE WALL...
...IT LOOKS LIKES...
...I LOVE YOU, SERIZAWA.
...SO?

WHAT'S YOUR ANSWER?
かあ
DON'T GIVE ME "HUH?" WHEN I WANT AN ANSWER TO A HEART-FELT CONFESSION.
...HUH?
...AFTER ALL THIS...? DON'T YOU ALREADY KNOW?!
.....
I DON'T KNOW.
HOW? I'VE NEVER HEARD A THING ABOUT IT FROM YOU, SERIZAWA.
YOU LIAR ...!!
I KNOW NOTHING!
THIS LITTLE ...!

Phew...
...GOT IT. THEN YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING.
Tick tick tick...
Umm umm
DING!
IT'S NOT THAT... I DON'T WANT IT, BUT...
BUT?
IF YOU DON'T WANT THIS, I'LL GIVE UP.
CAN I KISS YOU?
...WHO...
IF YOU DON'T WANT IT, RUN AWAY.

WHO IS THIS PERSON...?!
IS IT HIS HEAD? BECAUSE HE HIT HIS HEAD?!
I DON'T RECALL EVER RAISING HIM TO BE ABLE TO NONCHALANTLY SAY SMUG THINGS LIKE THAT.
THE KEI-CHAN I KNOW SHOULD BE A CARELESS LOSER PANIC ROMANTIC COMEDY GUY WHO TALKS TO AN IMAGINARY GIRLFRIEND...!
YOU DON'T WANT IT AFTER ALL.
NO...
WAIT A SEC.
WHY?
むぎゅ
BECAUSE!
I'M SCARED.

E-EVEN JUST BEING CLOSE TO YOU...
...IT'S LIKE MY HEART'S ABOUT TO EXPLODE.
'CAUSE YOU'RE LIKE A DIFFERENT PERSON.
I'M SO NERVOUS ...
IF ANY-THING MORE HAPPENED ...
...I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D...

...DO...
SORRY.
SERIZAWA.
!

I COULDN'T WAIT.
WHAT'S UP?
KEIDAI! MII!
OH, THERE THEY ARE, THERE THEY ARE.

UNDER THIS CHERRY TREE.
LET'S TAKE PICTURES, PICTURES. ALL TO-GETHER!
Creepy?
Mirror
HUH?
...KEIDAI, DO SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR FACE. IT'S OOZING HAPPINESS.
AND IT'S CREEPY.

HURRY UP!
KEIDAI.
OKAY.
SOMEDAY...
...THE DAY TO CLOSE THE ALBUM WILL COME.
IT'S LIKE...
...OLD, OLD PHOTOGRAPHS...
...LOCKED IN AN ALBUM.
AT THAT TIME, I'LL...
...ALONG WITH MY FRIENDS FROM THE IMPORTANT PRESENT...
...WHILE WE GAZE AT..
...NEW PHOTOGRAPHS.
...SURELY BE LAUGHING AND SMILING.

I'LL MEET THEM AGAIN
IN THE FUTURE.

NG Life Side Story
~ Memories of the End ~
POMPEII IS SINKING.
THE CITY THAT AGLAIA LOVED.
IT'S AWFULLY QUIET.
YOU BETRAYED US, DELOS.
YOU BASTARD ...

manga4here.com

...IS THE SHAPE OF YOU THAT DAY.

mangahere.com

OH, DELOS.
LADY .. AGLAIA...
LOOK. THE ALMOND BLOSSOMS ARE IN FULL BLOOM
POMPEII IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL IN THIS SEASON.
WHAT HAPPENED? THAT BLOOD ...
DON'T WORRY. IT'S NOT MY BLOOD.
THIS IS PIG'S BLOOD.
DO YOU KNOW A LORD ALBANUS BRITIUS?
PIG...?
DELOS.
mangahere.com

I SHOULD NOT HAVE WORN SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL AFTER ALL.
...IN NAME.
I WAS INVITED TO HIS DINNER PARTY TONIGHT.
IT APPEARS THAT WHEN MY LORD ALBANUS SEES A PRETTY THING, HE WANTS TO DEFILE IT.
...HE LOPPED OFF A LIVE PIG'S HEAD IN FRONT OF MY EYES.
SAYING IT WAS A DINNER PARTY ENTERTAINMENT...
UPON SEEING THAT I DID NOT QUIVER, THAT PERSONAGE TOOK IT RATHER POORLY.
IT APPEARS I INTEREST HIM VERY MUCH INDEED.

I THOUGHT HER YOUR TYPICAL HIGH-CLASS DAUGHTER WHO KNEW NO IMPURITY...
...BLESSED AND RAISED WITH LOVE.
BUT...
...THIS WOMAN...
WHEN I MET HER...
I WOULDN'T HAVE IT ANY OTHER WAY.
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mangahere.com

mangadex.com

...I THOUGHT YOU WOULD KISS ME.
WE SHOULD WASH THIS BLOOD OFF.
LET'S HURRY HOME.
I SEE.
WELL.
Wha!
TOO BAD.

I CAN NEVER TELL IF THIS WOMAN IS BEING SERIOUS.
DELOS, LET'S WALK TOGETHER A LITTLE LONGER.
LOOK.
POMPEII IS SO LOVELY.
SOMEDAY, I WILL BETRAY THIS WOMAN.
SOMEDAY...
...I HAVE NO INTEREST IN THIS CITY.
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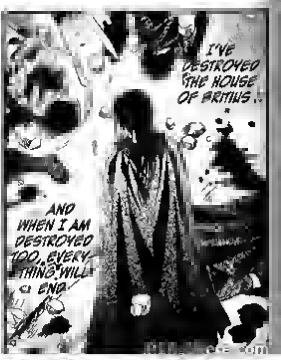
THAT IS MY JOB.
...AND ALL THOSE PRECIOUS TO YOU.
...BOTH YOU AND THE HOUSE OF FELIX...
...WITH NO HESITATION...
...WHEN THE TIME COMES...
IT'S THE CITY WHERE YOU WERE BORN.
WHY?
IT SHOULD BE EASY.
I WANT TO LOOK AT IT FOREVER.
IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN EASY.

THE CITY THAT AGLAIA LOVED.
POMPEII IS SINKING.

AGLAIA...


I'VE DESTROYED THE HOUSE OF PRIMUS...
AND WHEN I AM DESTROYED TOO, EVERYTHING WILL END.

I WILL NEVER...
...CLOSE MY EYES.
I WILL MAKE SURE THIS CITY SINKS.
SHOULD EVERYTHING ELSE IN POMPEII DIE OUT...
...I WILL REMAIN AS THE LAST.
I WILL BURN THE FINAL MOMENTS...
...INTO MY EYES.
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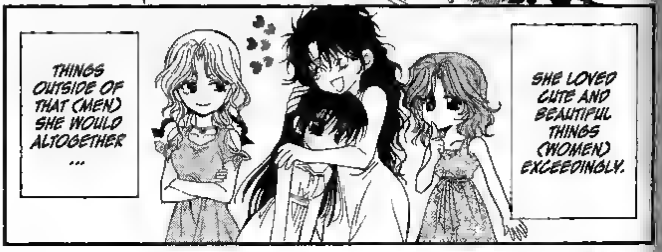
YES.

POMPEII IS BEAUTIFUL.

mangahere.com

A LONG, LONG TIME AGO...
...IN AN ITALIAN CITY CALLED POMPEII...
...LIVED A WOMAN-LOVING, MAN-HATING...
...ECCENTRIC BEAUTY NAMED SMYRNA.
Side Story ~The Dream of a Garnet~



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The latest necklace!
...AND SOMETIMES STEAL FROM.
I'll be keeping just this!
YOU'RE SMOTHERING ME!
...KICK AND SEND FLYING...
...KNOCK DOWN...
YOU'RE FRIGGIN' ANNOYING!
...THIS MAN.
PLEASE!
THIS IS ABSURD!
SERENA IS SO WORRIED!
A WOMAN LIKE THAT HAD AS HER UTMOST "ENEMY"...
MISS SMYRNA!
HE WAS A YOUNG MAN CALLED SIRIX, HER BELOVED YOUNGER SISTER'S LOVER.

THAT'S ENOUGH OUT OF YOU, PAUPER!
OWW!
Kick!
I HATE YOU MOST OF ALL!
GETTING CLOSE TO SERENA WITHOUT A PENNY TO YOUR NAME!
PLUS YOU ACT RIDICULOUS EVEN WHEN YOU GET SMACKED!
POMPEII'S STRONGEST GLADIATOR? WHATEVER.
I CAN'T GIVE SERENA TO SUCH A COWARD!
Won't give her away, no matter to whom
WAIT, MISS SMYRNA.
YOUR HAND IS HURT.
IT'S BECAUSE YOU HIT MEN WITH SUCH SLENDER ARMS.
LE--LET ME GO!
WHO WOULD GET TREATED BY YOU?
LET ME SEE.
LET'S GET YOU TREATED.
I DO IT ON PURPOSE!
IT'S SO I'LL GET TREATED BY SERENA WHEN I GET HOME!
mangaforce.com

pfff
MISS SMYRNA, YOU'RE CUTE...!
WHA ...
hee hee hee hee hee hee
DID YOU JUST LAUGH AT ME? THIS IS WHY YOU PISS ME OFF...
Aha ha ha!
WELL, HURRY HOME AND YOU'LL GET TREATED BY SERENA, HUH?
ARE YOU MOCKING ME, YOU BASTARD?!
DID YOU HIT SOMEONE AGAIN, ELDER SISTER?
WHO CARES? MEN ARE COWARDS WHO ARE ALL TALK.
THAT'S BAD! IF YOU HURT OTHERS, ONE DAY IT'LL COME BACK TO YOU.
Actually, you're hurt now, elder sister
ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT ME? DARLING SERENA! ♡
ELDER SISTER!

ELDER SISTER.
I'LL GIVE YOU THIS.
FOR ME? FROM YOU?
A GARNET RING...
I'M SO HAPPY! ♡
ELDER SISTER, IF YOU ARE ABLE TO MEET A MAN WHO YOU ADORE DEEP DOWN, GIVE THIS TO HIM.
HUH?
YES. IT'S MEANT FOR A MAN.
...SERENA, IT'S HUGE.
...SERENA, I REALLY HATE MEN.
YOU STILL MIGHT BE ABLE TO MEET SOMEONE WONDERFUL, RIGHT?
I LIKE WOMEN!
ELDER SISTER.
ELDER SISTER, I THINK THAT THE FEELINGS YOU HAVE FOR WOMEN ...
...COME FROM THE SAME PLACE AS YOUR FEELINGS OF CHERISHING ME, YOUR YOUNGER SISTER.

RRRR! ESPECIALLY THAT ONE! HE PISSES ME OFF!
MISS SMYRNA, YOU'RE CUTE.
MEN ARE COWARDS LEERING AT BEAUTY.
Miss Smyrnaaa!
SO THIS RING REPRESENTS MY PRAYER.
MAY SOMEONE APPEAR WHO YOU CAN TRUST FROM THE BOTTOM OF YOUR HEART, ELDER SISTER.
WHO WOULD HAND THIS OVER TO A STRANGER?
BELOVED, BELOVED, DARLING RING.
THE ONE I LOVE MOST IS SERENA.
SERENA'S BEING ABSURD TOO...
MISS SMYRNA...
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I HEARD THAT... YOU GOT A RING. FROM WHO?
WHA... WHO'RE YOU?
I'M SOME-ONE WHO'S PROPOSED TO YOU MANY, MANY TIMES OVER.
NONE OF MY BUSINESS ...?
THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
"FROM WHO"?
Who are you?
YOU DON'T REMEMBER ME...?
=Ah)"
...I DON'T.
I ALWAYS PUT THOUGHT INTO THE GIFTS I GAVE YOU.
BUT YOU HIT ME AND PRETENDED I DIDN'T EXIST.
AND YET, AND YET, AND YET...
I HEAR YOU GOT A SPECIAL RING...?
JUST WHO IS IT FROM?
WHEN I LOVED YOU SO, SO, SO...
STOP... GET AWAY.
...SO MUCH!
HE'S NOT NORMAL
THIS GUY...
I CAN'T ALLOW IT...
GET AWAY!!
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I CAN'T SHAKE HIM OFF...
YOU PRETENDED YOU DIDN'T CARE.
BUT YOU REALLY WANTED THIS, DIDN'T YOU?
THAT'S RIGHT. YOU'RE DRESSED LIKE A HARLOT...
...TO SEDUCE ME, AREN'T YOU?
HOW?
MEN SHOULD ALWAYS...
UGH!
SEE? YOU WON'T EVEN SHAKE MY HANDS OFF
BE WEAKLINGS WHO CAN'T DODGE EVEN MY FIST...
HOW COULD...
NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!
NO...
I DON'T WANT THIS ...!
I'M SCARED.
STOP. LET ME GO!!
HOW COULD I BE SO WEAK...
I'LL KILL YOU, YOU BASTARD!
THIS FEELS WRONG...!

WHY...
EEEK!
GET. OUT.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
WHY DID YOU COME?

This is the Smyrna chapter of the NG Life side stories. Smyrna's easy to draw, so it was fun. I was talking with my editor about which past life character could be won in the NG Love Simulation from the Volume 7 four-panel comic and said, "Smyrna, right?" (laughs) Since Serena's already won. But that person wouldn't wait outside the school gates. If it's present life characters, Rema... er someone might be fun.

Oddly enough, it seems like Serizawa never took a long time to completely win over. Since she doesn't believe you even after you confess. (laughs) I received a lot of requests to draw a side story like that, but I can't draw them all—I'm sorry. I had a hard enough time drawing the Dalis chapter. Thank you so much for saying you want to keep reading!

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HUH?
WH--WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
THERE'S NO WAY YOU'LL FIND IT IN THERE...
WHAT KIND OF RING WAS IT?
WHA?
WHAT KIND OF RING WAS IT?
...A MEN'S GARNET RING...
ALL RIGHT!
Swaah!
HEY, SIRIK.
THAT'S ENOUGH ...
Pffah!

I FOUND IT!!!
I'M SAYING IT'S FINE ...
IT'S FINE...
HOURS ON END...
YOU'RE... BEING A FOOL.
...IN SUCH A COLD RIVER...
IT'S THIS, RIGHT? GARNET!
FOUND IT, FOUND IT.
HUH?
FOR ME, OF ALL PEOPLE...
...GO SO FAR?
WHY ...
I'M GLAD.
YE... YEAH...
WHAT A RELIEF!
...MISS SMYRNA ON THE VERGE OF TEARS.
IT'S NOTHING COMPARED TO...

BUT ONCE IN A WHILE...
YELL AT ME LIKE ALWAYS.
...PLEASE SMILE.
ELDER SISTER.
SIRIX ...
BUT...
I CAN'T SAY IT EVEN UPON PAIN OF DEATH
I ABSOLUTELY CAN'T SAY IT...
...WHO YOU CAN TRUST FROM THE BOTTOM OF YOUR HEART, ELDER SISTER...
I HOPE SOMEONE APPEARS...

...OF THE ONE MOMENT ALONE...
IT'S FINE.
I'LL GIVE TO YOU THE PROOF...
BUT ISN'T THIS SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO YOU...
WHA...
HERE. TAKE IT.
BUT.
...THAT I TRUSTED JUST NOW...
I CAN'T DO THAT. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE RECEIVED SOMETHING FROM MISS SMYRNA. WHEN I TELL SERENA, I'M SURE SHE'LL BE GLAD...
ピク
WHY... THIS IS SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO YOU THAT YOU'RE GIVING ME AND...
Ummm
DON'T ASK ME ANYMORE. THROW IT OUT.
NUH?
...NOW, THROW THAT RING OUT RIGHT AWAY.
!?

GIVE IT BAAAAC-KKK!!!
IT IS MINE!! IF YOU TELL SERENA, I'LL KILL YOU!!!
HUH?
GIVE IT BACK NOW, GIVE IT RIGHT AWAY. HURRY AND GIVE IT. IT'S MINE, YOU DUMBASS, AND NOT EVEN FOR A SECOND DID I GIVE IT TO YOU.
A LONG, LONG TIME AGO... ... POMPEII'S ...
AND FOR-GET ALL ABOUT TODAY!
MIGHT AS WELL FOR-GET ALL ABOUT ME TOO!!
WHAT IS ALL THIS?
...MAN-HATING BEAUTY, SMYRNA...
...NEVER AGAIN SPOKE OF HER INNER HEART THAT HAD LOST CONTROL, EVEN UPON DEATH.
EVEN UPON REINCAR-NATION.
Just so we're clear about things, dont lump me in with Smyrna. That was her delusion, nothing to do with me

NG Life
Side Story
~Nice Going
Life~
WANNA GO TO THE MOVIES TOMORROW?
YEAH, SOUNDS GOOD!
There's one I want to see
SERIZAWAAA!
OH OH, IS THIS A DATE, SAEKI-KUN?
But he's making an excuse
SHE'S GOTTA BE HIS GIRLFRIEND, NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT.
CAUSE SHE'S MY GIRLFRIEND.
YUP, IT'S A DATE.

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NO... NO WAY NO WAY NO WAY! HOW? HOW'D THAT HAPPEN?!
WE'RE NOT SURPRISED YOU'RE GOING OUT, OKAY?! WE'RE SURPRISED THAT SOMEONE LIKE YOU IS SMILING AND ADMITTING IT, ALL RIGHT?!
IT'S ALL TRUE, YOU KNOW.
WHAAAAT?! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, SAEKI-KUN!!
WHAT'S UP WITH YOU OOZING CONFI-DENCE!
HEY, SERIZAWA
Sensei! Saeki kun's being weird!
IS IT TRUE THAT YOU'RE GOING OUT WITH SAEKI-KUN?
HM?
HUH?
NO WAY! WE'RE NOT GOING OUT!
WHOA! WHERE'S THIS CONVER-SATION GOING?
I SEE. LOOKS LIKE "GIRLFRIEND" IS ONE OF SAEKI'S DELUSIONS.
That's just sad. He's fallen that far, huh?
Ah ha ha.
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"DATE"... WELL, KE!-CHAN, WE'VE BEEN GOING TO MOVIES AND STUFF SINCE YOU WERE ALL "SERENA LOVE" YOU KNOW!
SO YOU'LL GO ON A DATE WITH SOMEONE YOU'RE NOT GOING OUT WITH?
You're close.
SERIZAWA-SAN.
SO WE'RE NOT GOING OUT?
WELL, BECAUSE ...
.....
...BUT...
...YOU'RE MY NUMBER ONE, SERIZAWA.
くぅ~

Back!
Back!
DAMMIT!!
LOSER-K TEAM, DISBAND!!

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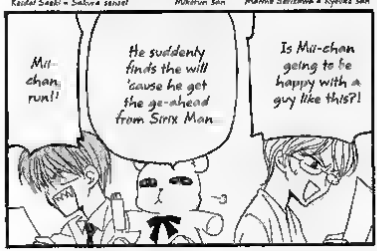
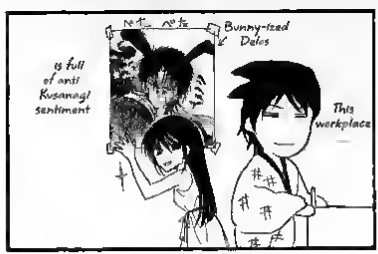
Even after this, let's get along

Reidai Seeki = Sakura sensei Makoron san Mamiko Saitoyuki = Kyouka san


Mii-chan, run!!
He suddenly finds the will 'cause he got the go-ahead from Sirrx Man
Is Mii-chan going to be happy with a guy like this?!



Serena Representative = Rurunga san

An NG Life Like Account.

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Afterword

About NG Life

This has been a work that was sooo fun and sooo worrisome. Especially the last part--I'm relieved to have drawn Kaidai's true feelings.

I gratefully received kind words from my esteemed readers as well, allowing me to pass the time happily.

Though there are lots of points I should redo, I even became deeply attached to the flaws, as part of the whole of this manga that brought my vision to life. In the next level, my goal is to clear what I couldn't clear here!

Please look out for my next work too!

Those Who Helped

I could continue to draw NG Life only thanks to the many people who supported me.
My assistants Mikorun-sama, Kyouko-sama, Rurunga-sama, Ryou Sakura-sama, and my little sister,
My editor H-sama, who stuck with me through NG's run to the very end,
My editor Y-sama, who helps me out currently,
The Hana to Yume editorial staff,
Naato-sama,
My family and friends,
and the readers who cheered me on.
Thank you so much!

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